

# *Senate Committee Services Summer Intern Program Questions & Answers*

*What do interns do for Senate Committee Services?*

Interns are generally assigned to one of the 13 standing committees of the State Senate. Interns will conduct legal, fiscal, and policy research for the committees, and may be asked to draft legislation and give presentations before the committees.

*What training and education opportunities are available for interns?*

- A one-day orientation session will provide information on legislative organization and process.
- Weekly seminars are held with state agency directors, lobbyists, judges, and appointed or elected officials.
- Interns draft and present a bill at a mock hearing modeled on committee hearings held during the legislative session.

*How are interns chosen?*

Interns are selected based on demonstrated oral and written communication skills, research and analysis skills, interpersonal skills, and interest in public service.

*How are interns assigned to committees?*

Interns are assigned to committees primarily based on the "needs of the Senate." However, interns' personal interests are considered to some degree if assignments are available with the respective committees. Additionally, interns are typically assigned to one committee for the 10-week period; however, exceptions have been made in the past.

*Who are the interviewers?*

**Chelsea Buchanan**, Fiscal Analyst for Senate Ways & Means Committee. She has a B.A. from Magna Cum Laude, Western Washington University and an M.P.A. from the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs. Chelsea interned with Senate Committee Services in the summer of 2000, and has now worked for the Ways & Means Committee for four years. Her previous work experience includes fiscal internships with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the City of Seattle's Human Services Department.

**Aldo Melchiori**, Senior Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has a B.S. from Oregon State University, a Ph.D. from Washington State University,

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and a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law. Aldo has been working for the Senate for 10 years. Prior to becoming an attorney, he was a swimming coach and certified athletic trainer.

**Susan Mielke**, Coordinator/Counsel for the Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12, & Higher Education. She has a B.A. in Education from Wichita State University and a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law. Susan began her Senate experience as a summer intern with Senate Committee Services (SCS) and was hired by SCS shortly thereafter. Her previous experience includes seven years as an elementary school teacher.

*What is the recruitment schedule?*

September & October	First interviews
November	Ten to twelve candidates selected for final interviews
December	Positions offered to four to six interns

*Where else is SCS interviewing?*

Seattle Univ. Law School, Gonzaga Univ. Law School, U.W. Law School, U. of Idaho Law School, U.W. Evans School of Public Affairs, W.S.U./Spokane Health Policy & Administration Graduate Program

*How long is the internship?*

Interns may choose any ten-week period from May to September.

*How much are interns paid?*

Interns are paid approximately \$2400 per month. Interns do not receive additional employee benefits or paid time off.

*Will SCS provide housing?*

No. But SCS can provide information for those seeking short-term housing in Olympia.